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its general influence on the course of national life throughout the centuries is observed, but with an expression of regret the author sees in the last forty years a decline of the village in much that through the centuries served to make it so important and so interesting a centre of German life. The illustrations are numerous and are of good character, though small. The literature of the German Village is referred to in a concluding page.

E. L. S.

Patrollers of Palestine. By Haskett Smith. pp. xi, 361. London, Edw. Arnold, 1906.

This book is the work of an English clergyman thoroughly familiar with Palestine. As a contribution to geography it is not especially valuable, but for the student of the Bible it contains much that is of great interest. Mr. Smith was at one time the editor of Murray's *Handbook to Syria and Palestine*; and the flavour of the hand-book pervades the present volume. The author conducts a party of imaginary travellers from Jaffa to Jerusalem, Jericho and the Dead Sea. On the way he describes the scenery, the appearance of the people and villages, the modes of travel, and the difficulties of the past as compared to the comforts of the present. He also endeavours to write a satire upon the tourists of Palestine. Each of the party represents a type; for example: there are the "Enthusiast," the "Matter-of-Fact Man," the "General Nuisance," and others, led by the Sheikh. The latter, alone, is a real person; and one surmises that he is Mr. Wilson, the author of *Peasant Life in the Holy Land*. The other travellers, being always in character, do not seem like real people, and are sometimes tiresome.

The main purpose of the book is to set forth in popular style some of the most important results of recent research in identifying scriptural sites, especially in Jerusalem. This is well done. The reader receives a strong impression of the extraordinary accuracy of the Bible in describing topography and customs. Geographically one of the points worth noting is the description of views. For instance, from the steamer off Jaffa one sees at a glance most of western Palestine from the yellow sand-dunes on the coast, across the coastal plain, green in spring, to the hill-country of Samaria on the north and Judea on the south. Again, from Bethlehem,—the "Fruitful" as it was fittingly called in earlier times,—one looks across the deep "Ghor" where a bit of the Dead Sea is in sight, and sees the hills of Moab, only 25 miles away. When Ruth, the Moabitess, left her home and kindred, and followed Naomi to Bethlehem, she did not go to a far country, as we are apt to think. She probably was still in sight of her native village. "There is a tendency (to quote Mr. Smith) in most persons' minds to imagine everything in connection with this land [Palestine] to be on a very much larger scale than it really is. For example, it would be much more in accordance with the fitness of things if we spoke of 'Mound Moriah' [instead of 'Mount Moriah']; for really the hill on which Solomon built his temple was little more than a mound." Another common misapprehension is corrected in the words of a school-boy, who was told to describe the course of the Jordan river. "The Jordan," so he wrote, "is a river which runs straight down the middle of the map of Palestine; but, if you look at it very closely, it *wiggles about*." The Jordan is emphatically a meandering river, which flows in a terraced channel incised in the soft strata of an alluvial plain. If the "Sheikh" were left to tell his story concisely without the help of his "tribe" of "Patrollers," Mr. Smith's book would attract the thoughtful reader much more than it now does.

E. H.